

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

Listing of Claims:

A4
1. (Currently Amended) An earphone cushion, comprising a first resilient ring having opposite input and output faces, a thickness between the faces, and an opening therethrough defining an interior surface between the faces, the input face having associated structure for acoustically coupling the opening to an output face of a speaker, the output face of the first resilient ring being resiliently conformable to a lateral face of an auricle, and the interior surface flaring unidirectionally outwardly for at least a portion of the thickness.

2. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 1, wherein the first ring is annular, oval, elliptical, or auricular in shape.

3. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 1, wherein the interior surface flares out in a direction from the input face to the output face.

4. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 1, wherein the interior surface flares out exponentially.

5. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 1, wherein the first ring comprises an elastomer.

6. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 5, wherein the elastomer comprises microcapsules of a material capable of an endothermic phase change at a substantially constant temperature.

7. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 6, wherein the microcapsules comprise Frisby Thermasorb microcapsules.

8. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 5, wherein the elastomer is foamed with at least one of open and closed cells.

9. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 1, wherein the first ring comprises Frisby Comfortemp.

10. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 1, wherein the structure associated with the input face of the first ring for acoustically coupling the opening in the first ring to an output face of a speaker comprises the output face of the speaker having an associated flange, the opening at the input face of the first ring being configured to resiliently receive the output face of the speaker in a complementary, slide-in, elastic engagement, and the interior surface of the first ring having a flange-retaining recess located adjacent to the input face of the ring and configured to resiliently receive the flange of the speaker in a complementary, over-center, elastic engagement.

11. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 1, wherein the structure associated with the input face of the first ring for acoustically coupling the opening of the first ring to an output face of a speaker comprises:

the output face of the speaker having an associated flange;

a second resilient ring having opposite input and output faces and an opening therethrough defining an interior surface between the faces, the opening at the input face of the second ring being configured to resiliently receive the output face of the speaker in a complementary, slide-in, elastic engagement, and the interior surface of the second ring having a flange-retaining recess located adjacent to the input face and configured to resiliently receive the flange of the speaker in a complementary, over-center, elastic engagement;

a third retainer ring having an opening therethrough and an outer periphery configured to be resiliently received in the recess of the second ring in a complementary, over-center, elastic engagement adjacent to the flange of the speaker;

an acoustic plug having at least one aperture therethrough, an output end, a flange circumscribing the output end, and an input end corresponding to and configured to be received through the respective openings in the first, second and third rings; and,

structure for retaining the input end of the plug in the opening of the third ring such that the flange of the plug presses a first portion of the input face of the first ring against a corresponding portion of the output face of the second ring and acoustically couples the opening of the first ring to the output face of the speaker.

12. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 10, wherein the first ring has at least one circumferential recess between the output face thereof and the flange-retaining recess in the interior surface thereof.

13. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 11, wherein a second portion of the input face of the first ring circumscribing the flange of the plug is spaced apart from a corresponding portion of the output face of the second ring, thereby defining a circumferential recess between the input face of the first ring and the output face of the second ring.

14. (Original) The earphone cushion of claim 11, wherein the structure for retaining the input end of the plug in the opening of the third retainer ring comprises an adhesive, a plurality of resiliently supported cams on the input end of the plug, and complementary threads on respective ones of the input end of the plug and the opening of the third ring.

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15. (Original) An earphone, comprising:
a cushion in accordance with claim 1; and,
a speaker having an output face acoustically coupled to the opening of the cushion at the input face thereof.

16. (Original) A headset, comprising:
at least one earphone in accordance with claim 15; and,
means for acoustically coupling the output face of the cushion to a lateral face of an auricle of a listener.

17. (Original) The headset of claim 16, wherein the means for acoustically coupling the output face of the cushion to a lateral face of an auricle of a listener comprises a resilient, arcuate band having a first end attached to the at least one earphone.

18. (Original) The headset of claim 16, further comprising a microphone attached to the at least one earphone.

19. (Original) The headset of claim 18, wherein the microphone is on a boom attached to the at least one earphone.

20. (Original) The headset of claim 18, wherein the microphone is on a wire suspended from the at least one earphone.

Claims 21-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) An earphone cushion, comprising a first ring having opposing first and second faces defining a thickness therebetween, the first ring defining an opening therethrough, the opening defining an interior surface between the faces, the first face having associated structure for acoustically coupling the opening to an output face of a speaker and the second face being resiliently conformable to a lateral face of an auricle, the first ring comprising microcapsules of a material capable of an endothermic phase change at a substantially constant temperature.

28. (New) The earphone cushion of claim 27, wherein the interior surface flares out unidirectionally from the first face to the second face for at least a portion of the thickness.

29. (New) The earphone cushion of claim 27, wherein the microcapsules comprise Frisby Thermasorb microcapsules.

30. (New) The earphone cushion of claim 27, wherein the first ring comprises Frisby Comfortemp

31. (New) The earphone cushion of claim 27, wherein the structure associated with the first face for acoustically coupling the opening to the output face of the speaker includes a flange-retaining recess located adjacent to the first face and configured to resiliently receive a flange of the output face of the speaker in a complementary elastic engagement.

32. (New) An earphone, comprising:
the earphone cushion of claim 27; and
the speaker having the output face acoustically coupled to the opening of the earphone cushion at the first face thereof.